1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
15	West Bengal . .	56·76	23·31	55·63	—	22·66	
16	Pondicherry . .	1·06	2·94	1·97	—	0·12	
17	Goa Daman & Diu .	—	—	0 05	—	0·29	
18	Delhi . . .	—	—	0·11	—	—	
19	A & N . . .	0·17	—	—	—	0·16	
	TOTAL :	941·45	8093·12	441·23	163·81	874·39	

**States have not yet furnished yield estimates for settlement of claims.

Rate of interest on agricultural loan

2459. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that high rate of interest on agricultural loans have made agricultural production unremunerative;

(b) whether Government have any information on various incentives and concessional rate of interest or interest free credit available to farmers in different countries; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) The rates of interest on agricultural loans charged to ultimate borrowers by the Cooperative Credit Institutions, Commercial Banks and Regional Rural Banks are already low as compared to commercial rates of interest. Currently the rates of interest on short-term agricultural loans range between 11.50 per cent to 16.50 per cent per annum depending on the size of loans. The rates of interest charged on medium-term and long-term loans range between 10.00 per cent to 12.50 per cent per annum depending on the purpose of loans. It is estimated that around 40 per cent of agricultural credit is provided by the Institutional Agencies. The prevailing rates of interest on agricultural loans do not adversely affect economics of agricultural production.

(b) and (c) Government are aware of the rates of interest on agricultural loans in some foreign countries. They vary from country to country. The rate of interest on agricultural loans is 11 per cent in Pakistan between 9.50 per cent and 14 per cent in Sri Lanka, 12 per cent and 21 per cent in Indonesia, 14 per cent and 16 per cent in Thailand and 13 per cent and 18 per cent per annum in South Korea.

Setting up of Commodity Boards

2460. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to set up Commodity Boards in the country for crops like, wheat, paddy, cotton etc. on the lines of tea, rubber boards; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) and (b) The country has achieved significant increase in the production of wheat, rice and cotton through the present system in which extension service is the responsibility of the State Government. Hence a Board type of tructure on the pattern of Rubber and Tea Boards is not considered necessary.